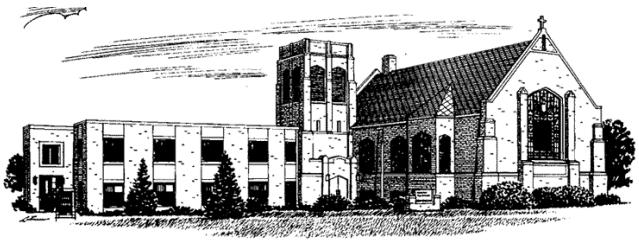


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

May 2019

They say, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Here are my "words" for the month. Enjoy a glimpse of how Saron folk live their Easter faith. Happy Eastertide.

Pastor Joan

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Megan Savage Financial Secretary
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: Megan Savage
Call for office for more information
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in May 2019

May 2 - John Hoodlebrink
3 - Brooklyn Huff
4 – Andrew Fortenbacher
6 – Charlene Baumgartner
9 - Dennis Lundgren
11 - Kelli (Hoodlebrink) Christman
12 - Alexander Maly
Andrew Stankiewicz
13 - Jenna Henderson
15 - Kathie Bradley
17 – Arla Huelsberg
19 - Monica Freemire
22 - Connor Ashley
23 - Adam Bradley
25 - Lila Roethel
Matthew Bradley
28 - Marlene Cox
30 - Benjamin Frey
31 - David Bradley

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members in 2019.

May 2 - Phillip and Kathleen Preston
15 - David and Elizabeth Lundgren
16 - Ted and Ann Dosch
22 – James and Laura Hicks
23 - Edward and Mary Alice Brunner
Ryan and Serena Talbert
25 - Matthew and Amanda Bradley
30 – Robert and Mary Kynast

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

Please submit any corrections to the church office at 983-1273. Thanks.

WITH JOY

With joy we welcome Makaio Tianyue Zhou Talbert into the community of faith at Saron through Holy Baptism on April 21st, 2019. Makaio is the son of Ryan Talbert and Serena Zhou Talbert. His sponsors are: Meng Zhou-Wang, Krin Jurgensen and Kirsten Talbert.

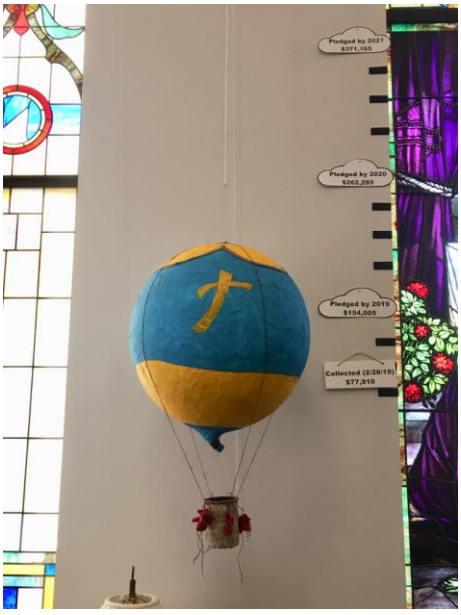
Welcome and Thank You!

We welcome to our staff Megan Savage who has begun her work as Saron's financial secretary /bookkeeper. A huge and heartfelt thank you is extended to Denise Cook who has served in the interim and is also in the process of training Megan.

FORTIFY & fly

Spring often represents new beginnings and it certainly meant beginning a new phase for Project Fortify & Fly... Implementation! Roof work began and has since been completed and inspected! The project even included insulation which we did not have previously and should save us on energy costs. Council also approved moving ahead with the next two phases of restoration work which includes tuck-pointing (brick & mortar) repairs and replacement of failed glass panels where moisture has seeped into the windows and made them cloudy.

As of the end of March, we had collected $121,644 towards our 3 year pledge total of $371,165. If that seems really close to our 2019 estimated collections of $154,005, it's because some households have already given their entire 2019 donation and some have even been able to donate towards amounts they initially pledged for future years. Giving early does not change our total estimated collections but it may allow us to move forward with investigating future projects sooner. Welcome Spring and welcome implementation phase!



Many of you were able to see Project Fortify and Fly's video, featuring our choir, youth, and Saron leaders speaking of the ministry and vision of Saron. If you would like to watch the video again, or have a friend watch it, the link can be found at *https://youtu.be/d1UGzGbPXLg* or you can search on "Fortify & Fly" in YouTube.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, May 5 –
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Sunday, May 12 –
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 19 –
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Sunday, May 26 –
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Nursery News
We are always looking for more volunteers to keep this service available. Sometimes a volunteer will need to step away, so if we have someone join in, we keep our rotation time the same. You can choose either worship time. Since we have one service in the summer, the duty days spread out quite a bit. Our child care provider Emily is wonderful at helping the children explore things to do. You can dive right in to the playing or hangout in the background. For any questions or to sign up, contact Marilyn Lucy.

SUMMER BEACH WORSHIP
Once again we are offering an evening worship experience at Lions Park – in the pavilion closest to the water treatment plant. The dates are June 19, July 17, and August 14. Hot dogs provided; bring a dish to pass as you are able. Supper at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION
We will honor our graduates and offer a prayer of blessing at worship in the coming weeks. Please let the office know if you or your family member is graduating.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR
The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

Youth

SAVE THE DATE!
Our upcoming May Youth Group Gathering is scheduled for May 5, after worship.

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

NEW MEMBER CLASS
If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith from the Lutheran tradition, or interested in joining Saron, please let Pastor know. An inquirer's class/new member orientation will be held May 19 following morning worship. You are welcome to attend with your questions as part of a discernment process for membership.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS
A class for our young persons who have not yet received their First Communion will be held shortly. Please let Pastor know of your interest.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Save the date! VBS is scheduled at Saron for the evenings of August 5-8. Exciting things are being planned!

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP
This group enjoys Bible study, conversation, and sharing a meal together. We typically meet on the third Sunday of each month, rotating among the homes of those participating. Please call the Kynasts (269-921-3816 for Mary, 269-921-2786 for Bob) if you'd like more information.

Thursday Morning Bible Study
The Thursday morning study on the psalms will meet for its final sessions beginning April 25. We will then explore the traditions of our neighbors in faith – The Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints 5/9, Mennonite 5/16, and Jehovah's Witness 5/23. The class runs from 9:30-11:00. New folks are always welcome. After Memorial Day, we will break for the summer. Alternately, we invite you to come to the beach on Tuesday mornings at 8:30. See related article.

Beach Study
Beginning May 28, we will join at Lions Park Beach for Bible study at 8:30 am. Wear your jacket, bring a cup of coffee (if desired), and we will study the Scripture for the following Sunday and join in prayer. The conversation usually lasts 45 min to an hour.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study
Saron Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm at the church then at 7:00pm we adjourn and all are invited to join in for something to eat and/or drink at Azul Tequila. If you have questions, feel free to call Sid at 312-209-1301 or sidmohn@gmail.com. or Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on the 23rd. Feel free to bring a friend.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast
There will be NO Men's Bible devotions/Breakfast during the month of May.

Thank you!
As we end our program year, we'd like to extend a thank you to our faithful Sunday School (children-adult) teachers, including Eric Standen, Tyler Cook, Pastor Joan, and Kristen Harper. Also, to our amazing choirs – both bell and vocal – who enhance our worship, under the leadership of our gifted director, Marcus Roll. The liturgical music we enjoyed during Lent was written by Marcus. Thanks to all!!!

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
On Sunday, May 5th, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge, we will conclude our 2018/2019 session with Elizabeth Strout's best seller, "Abide With Me". Strout returns to the lovely landscape of northern New England to tell the story of a minister struggling to "regain his calling, his family and his happiness in the wake of profound loss". (Amazon) Strout considers life, love, God, the workings of a church congregation and a community in ways only her compelling writing style allows. Come discuss this novel with us and help choose which books we will be reading for the 2019/2020 season.

We are taking a break for the summer months and will continue our fabulous reads and great discussions in October. Look for our list of new selections in the June newsletter. Questions? Please contact Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354 or kcowall@hotmail.com. If you love to read, we'd love to have you join us.

"She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live." (Annie Dillard)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle
Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at church in the lounge. Kathy Cowall will lead the Bible study and Frieda Williams will be the hostess.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks!
Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?

If you are, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you is given to Judi Huff (and helpers) for the delicious Easter Breakfast! Also, thanks to Deanna Deaton for the beautiful table decorations and set up.

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

On March 28th 114 people arrived at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen to enjoy a nutritious meal provided by Saron. Thanks to Pastor, Coanne Hohman, Mary Alice Brunner, Jan Taylor, Tom Taylor, Ruth Ball, & Darlene Kiessel for preparing & serving the ham dinner. Saron's cookies are always enjoyed by all and were baked in March by Pat Breyen, Karen Johnson, Janet Oleson, & Krin Jurgensen. The Soup Kitchen is open 7 days a week, every day of the year. Hunger in our community is an ongoing concern. Thank you for supporting Saron in this outreach opportunity as a part of the ELCA's mission of God's Gifts, Our Hands!

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 269-427-7083.

BLOOD DRIVE

It's this month – the last Monday, April 29th. The donation hours are from 3:00 – 7:00pm. We'd love to have you sign up to give blood; that's the best way to help but there are other ways also. Hang out for an hour or two – hand out snacks. Bring snacks – we like all kinds. Help set up on Sunday after church. Encourage a friend to give blood. Help after by putting the long tables away – just show up after the drive about 8:00 pm. Any help is greatly appreciated. Blood Drive Fact: I've heard from many people that they come to our drive because it's a pleasant environment and we have great snacks!

CROP WALK NEWS

The 40th annual CROP walk with a theme of Eggs, Veggies and a Side of Hope will be held May 19, 2019. Please consider participating as a walker or contributor. See Amy Nelson, Elizabeth Kunkel or Steve Bell for participant packet. CROP walk has raised almost $1.5 million since 1980. Twenty-five percent of proceeds benefit local agencies such as Benton Harbor Street Ministries, Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen, Bread of Heaven Food Pantry, Catholic Community Center, Fairplain Food Bank and Salvation Army.

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of welcome and inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

Interfaith Action of SW Michigan

National Day Of Prayer
"Love One Another" May 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
First Congregational Church of St. Joseph
2001 Niles Avenue, St. Joseph, MI
Invited guests: U.S. Representative Fred Upton, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer Music by All God's Children

APRIL'S MISSION MOMENT

Each month we will be featuring a ministry of Saron – either a direct ministry, or one that is ours as a member of the ELCA.

TINY HOUSES FOR BIG CHANGE

Tiny Houses for Big Change, is an organization started at Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor. Its purpose is to help the homeless in southwest Michigan. It began with a group of children at Saint Augustine's who wanted to build a tiny house for a homeless person, and it took off from there. Now they're partnering with Andrews University architecture students and Harbor Habitat, as well as generous donors, to put the plan into action. Through grants and giving, they have raised over $28,000. They won't stop there though. The kids want to keep building tiny houses for homeless people in our community well after the first is built.

We can help. Small "tiny house boxes" are available at Saron for you to start collecting your coins and dollars for this venture. We will be collecting fund through the Easter season. You can also get more information and donate through https://www.gofundme.com/65ha1uo. Interfaith Action is helping with this endeavor

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

Facilities

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as we receive rebates to be used on office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank you.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated **$1,000.00+** in expenses last year. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. The church has its own lawn mower. There is a sigh-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.

Council News

Saron's Council Members – 2019

Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – President
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Brandon Burrow – Youth
Troy Burrow – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Deanna Deaton (429-9086) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning, Youth
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Fortify and Fly
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor

Attendance Record	
03/31/2019	*76*
04/07/2019	*95*
04/14/2019	*116*
04/21/2019	*203*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 26
One service only – 9:30 AM
NO Summer Learning Hour
Worship in the Courtyard on May 26
Weather Permitting
Bring a lawn chair for seating, as you are able

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes			**1** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**2** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**3** CWU 11:00 a.m. Meeting at Stevensville United Methodist Church 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	4 NO Men's Devotion/Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Picnic 1:00 p.m. Blossom Parade Start 5:00 p.m. Wedding
5 Baptism 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**6** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**7** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**8** 9:30am Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	**9** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**10**	11 5:00 p.m. Vasa's 90th Anniversary Celebration at Saron
12 Worship/Learning Schedule Above Confirmation *Mother's Day*	**13** Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 5:30 p.m. Support Comm. Meeting	**14** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**15** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**16** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Synod Assembly	**17** Synod Assembly	18 Synod Assembly
19 Worship/Learning Schedule Above 2:15 p.m Blossomland CROP Walk	**20** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**21** 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**22** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**23** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen	**24**	25
26 9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion Summer Worship Schedule begins - one service only	**27** Office Closed Memorial Day	**28** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**29** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**30**	**31**	

Saron 2019
May Volunteer Schedule

	May 5 ***Third Sunday of Easter***		***May 12 Confirmation*** ***Fourth Sunday of Easter***		***May 19*** ***Fifth Sunday of Easter***		***May 26*** ***Sixth Sunday of Easter***
	8:30	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***	***9:30***
Assisting minister	*Pauline Ngonyani*	*Bob Kynast*	*Eric Standen*	*Youth*	*Wendy King*	*Bob Deaton*	*Marilyn Frey*
Reader/ Comm.Asst	*Steve Bell*	*Judi Huff*	*Sally Schmuhl*	*Youth*	*Susan Harris*	*Laurel Gacek*	*Frieda Williams*
Ushers	*Keith Stevens and Jim Manore*	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	*Walt Schumhl and Steve Bell*	David and Emma Young	*Walt and Sally Schmuhl*	*Peter & Karen Johnson*	*Dave and Kathie Bradley*
Acolyte	*Troy & Eric Burrow*	*Mia & Alaina Bradley*	*Brooke Henderson*	*Meredith Gacek*	*Brandon and Eric Burrow*	*Grant Gacek*	*none*
Nursery 1st	*Allison Rood*	*Kate Kohs*	*Jenna Henderson*	*Ruth Stelling*	*Janet Larson*	*Karen Hinckley*	*Mary Kynast*
Nursery 2nd	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*
Bldg. close		*Brad and Marilyn Frey*		*Jerry and Ruth Stelling*		*Dennis and Colleen Lundgren*	*Dave and Kathie Bradley*
Snacks							
Flowers	*Dennis Lundgren Birthday Sterling Johnson baptism*		*Keith Stevens in memory of Jan*		*Kathie Bradley birthday*		*Kynast anniversary*